

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 12, 14-27, 29, 31-33, 38, 39, and 44 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 12, 14, 18, 19, 22, 25, 29, and 31-33 have been amended. [Claims 3, 6, 7, 9-11, 13, 28, 30, 34-37, and 40-43 have been cancelled.] New claim 44 has been added.

Applicant notes that the Examiner indicated on the Office Action Summary that claims 1-31 are pending. By this amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 12, 14-27, 29, 31-33, 38, 29, and 44 are pending. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action dated January 12, 2004, the Examiner (a) allowed claims 4, 8, 12, 18-27, 29, and 31, and (b) objected to claims 4, 8, and 12 because the Examiner interpreted the phrase PMA as meaning "Program Management Area" and stated that "Program Management Area area" is not in idiomatic English. Claims 4, 8, and 12 have been amended. Applicant has also amended all instances of "PMA area" to "PMA" in claims 1-3, 14, 15, 18, 19, 22, 25, 29, 31-33, 38, and 39. Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment does not affect the Examiner's previous indication of allowability of claims 4, 8, 12, 18-27, 29, and 31. ✓

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-17, 28, 30, and 36-43 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the phrase "wherein the frames containing the identification information are erasable from the PMA area and rewritable to the PMA area" was not understood. Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 14 to overcome this rejection. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 14, as amended, are definite and the rejection of independent claims 1 and 14, as amended, under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2

should be withdrawn. Claims 2, 3, 5, and 15-17, 38, 39 directly depend from independent claims 1 and 14, respectively. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 3, 5, and 15-17, 38, 39 are also definite and that the rejection of claims 2, 3, 5, and 15-17, 38, 39 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 should be withdrawn. Claims 6, 7, 9-11, 13, 28, 30, 36, 37, and 40-43 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 28, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over (a) admitted prior art or U.S. Patent No. 4,570,340 to Lee ("Lee"), in view of a combination of (b) U.S. Patent No. 5,659,745 to Inoue ("Inoue"), and (c) Inoue, or Takahashi et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,966,495 ("Takahashi"), or Mikamo U.S. Patent No. 5,349,577 ("Mikamo"). Claims 28 and 30 have been cancelled.

The present invention relates to a method and associated system for logically erasing contents of a rewritable optical disc in response to an erase command. The rewritable optical disc is optically rewriteable and has a program area and a program memory area (PMA). The program area is recorded with the contents as tracks, and the PMA is recorded with at least two kinds of frames. One kind of the frames contains identification information for identifying the rewritable optical disc and another kind of the frames contains track information for indicating the tracks of the contents recorded in the program area. The PMA is accessed in response to the erase command. All of the frames containing the track information from the PMA are detected and deleted, thereby logically erasing all of the contents from the program area. The frames containing the identification information in the PMA, are preserved so that the rewritable optical disc can be identified at rewriting thereof even after all of the contents are logically erased from the program area of the rewritable optical disc. The frames

containing the identification information are erasable from the PMA and rewritable to the PMA.

**Independent claim 1, as amended, recites (with emphasis added):**

A method of logically erasing contents of a rewritable optical disc in response to an erase command, the rewritable optical disc being optically rewriteable and having a program area and a program memory area (PMA), the program area being recorded with the contents as tracks, the PMA being recorded with at least two kinds of frames, one kind of frames containing identification information for identifying the rewritable optical disc and another kind of frames containing track information for indicating the tracks of the contents recorded in the program area, the method comprising:

accessing the PMA in response to the erase command;

detecting and deleting all of the frames containing the **track information** from the PMA, thereby logically erasing all of the contents from the program area, and at the same time **erasing from the PMA the frames containing the identification information**; and

preserving the frames containing the **identification information** in the PMA in such a manner that the **frames containing the identification information and erased from the PMA are rewritten to the PMA** so that the rewritable optical disc can be identified at rewriting thereof even after all of the contents are logically erased from the program area of the rewritable optical disc.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over (a) admitted prior art or Lee, in view of a combination of (b) Inoue, and (c) all considered with either Inoue, or Takahashi, or Mikamo. The Examiner stated "with respect to the

ultimate paragraph, the examiner interprets such to mean that the **identification information** is logically erased and then preserved ("unerased").

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1, as amended, does not recite that the **identification information** is logically erased and then preserved. Independent claim 1, as amended, recites detecting and deleting **all of the frames containing the track information** from the PMA, thereby logically erasing all of the contents from the program area.

Applicant's APA discloses methods for erasing CD-RW discs by physical erasing or logical erasing. The APA also makes use of a Program Memory Area ("PMA") on which **track information** and **unique disc identification** is stored. Lee discloses a disk recording medium and method which uses an order table to correlate stored programs. Lee further discloses a format of a program area of a compact disc and a format of a disc description area of the disc. Inoue discloses a file managing method having an erasure mode indicating the logical erasure of files for an information recording medium.

Lee does not teach, alone or in combination with any of the applicant's APA, Inoue, Takahashi, or Mikamo (collectively, "the cited references"), a method of logically erasing contents of a rewritable optical disc in response to an erase command, including "detecting and deleting all of the frames containing the **track information** from the PMA, thereby logically erasing all of the contents from the program area, and at the same time **erasing from the PMA the frames containing the identification information**; and preserving the frames containing the **identification information** in the PMA in such a manner that the **frames containing the identification information**

**and erased from the PMA are rewritten to the PMA so that the rewritable optical disc can be identified at rewriting thereof even after all of the contents are logically erased from the program area of the rewritable optical disc.**

None of the cited references, alone or in combination, discloses that the frames containing the **identification information** are erasable from the PMA and rewritable to the PMA so that the rewritable optical disc can be identified at rewriting thereof even after all of the contents are logically erased from the program area of the rewritable optical disc. Therefore, independent claim 1, as amended, distinguishes over the cited references.

Claims 2, 5, and 44 directly depend from independent claim 1, as amended, and therefore also distinguish over the cited references for the same reasons as those set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, as amended. Independent claims 32 and 33, each as amended, contain limitations similar to those of independent claim 1, as amended, and therefore also distinguish over the cited references for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, as amended.

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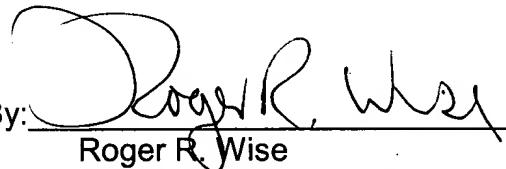
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Applicant believes that the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance, and a favorable action is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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